



Fact Sheet

Transportation Alternatives and Safe Routes to School

Call for Colorado-Based Grant Funding Projects

Funding for Fiscal Years 2027, 2028, 2029

Overview

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) are both federal grant programs administered by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). TAP provides funding for community transportation projects that expand walking, biking, non-driver mobility, environmental protection, scenic activities and historic preservation in Colorado. SRTS funds programs and active transportation improvements within two miles of an elementary, middle or high school in Colorado. This cycle, both programs will be accessed via one application.

CDOT manages Colorado's allocation of TAP and SRTS funds to achieve specific outcomes and determines the best investment of these funds via a discretionary grant decision process. The call for grant funded projects will occur from late fall of 2026 to the early summer of 2027 and will allocate three years of funds. The call will be released **October 30, 2026**.

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible, applicants must be one of the following:

- Local governments: cities, towns, and counties.
- Regional transportation authorities and transit agencies.
- Natural resource or public land management agencies.
- School districts, local education agencies, and public or nonprofit private schools.
- Federally recognized tribal governments.
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) representing areas with a population of 200,000 or under.

Eligible Project Categories

Projects must fall into at least one of the following five primary areas:

1. **Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities:** New or improved Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-use paths, crosswalks, signal improvements, school zone speed enforcement, and wayfinding.
2. **Environmental & Wildlife Mitigation:** Stormwater run-off management, wildlife underpasses/overpasses, roadside vegetation management, and archaeological activities tied to transportation projects.
3. **Historic & Scenic Transportation Activities:** Restoration of historic transportation buildings or bridges, scenic turnouts and overlooks, and outdoor advertising control/removal.
4. **Boulevard Conversions:** Converting divided highways or former interstates into walkable, low-speed urban boulevards.
5. **School-based Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs** that increase safe biking and walking connections to schools with students in any grades between K-12 from neighborhoods within 2 miles of a school. These may include bike skills courses, classroom education, event coordination, walking libraries, and more.
6. **Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessments:** data-driven assessment used to identify risk levels of specific areas, safety trends and potential countermeasures to improve non-driving road users' safety.

Funding & Matching Requirements

- **Reimbursement Grants:** TAP and SRTS are both reimbursement-based grants. This means grantees will pay for work completed and request reimbursement after payment is made to the contractor, vendor or employee conducting the work.
- **Local Match:** Recipients must provide a minimum **20% local match** in cash or approved cash-equivalent. Select applicants may be eligible for a reduced match. Additional information regarding eligibility will be provided with the guidance document released on October 30, 2026.
- **Expenditure Time:** Allocated funds typically have a four-year window for expenditure before lapsing under federal-aid regulations.

- **Prevailing Wage:** All grant-funded infrastructure projects must pay Davis-Bacon wages regardless of location.
- **Administration Compliance:** Comply with federal regulations outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations, specifically 2 CFR Part 200, also known as the Uniform Guidance. This includes, but is not limited to adhering to CDOT monitoring requirement steps, deadlines, including regular submission of grant funding requests for reimbursement and project progress updates.
- **Public Access & Accessibility:** Completed projects must be open to the general public and fully compliant with ADA standards.

Application Steps

1. **Mandatory Letter of Interest (LOI):** Applicants must begin the application process by completing and submitting an LOI by **December 15, 2026**. LOI submissions will be reviewed for regulatory and engineering compliance, including eligibility, project readiness, cost estimates and schedule reasonableness.
2. **Application:** An application must be submitted by the defined deadline and will be reviewed to ensure recommendations from CDOT experts were addressed.

Subscribe for Notifications

